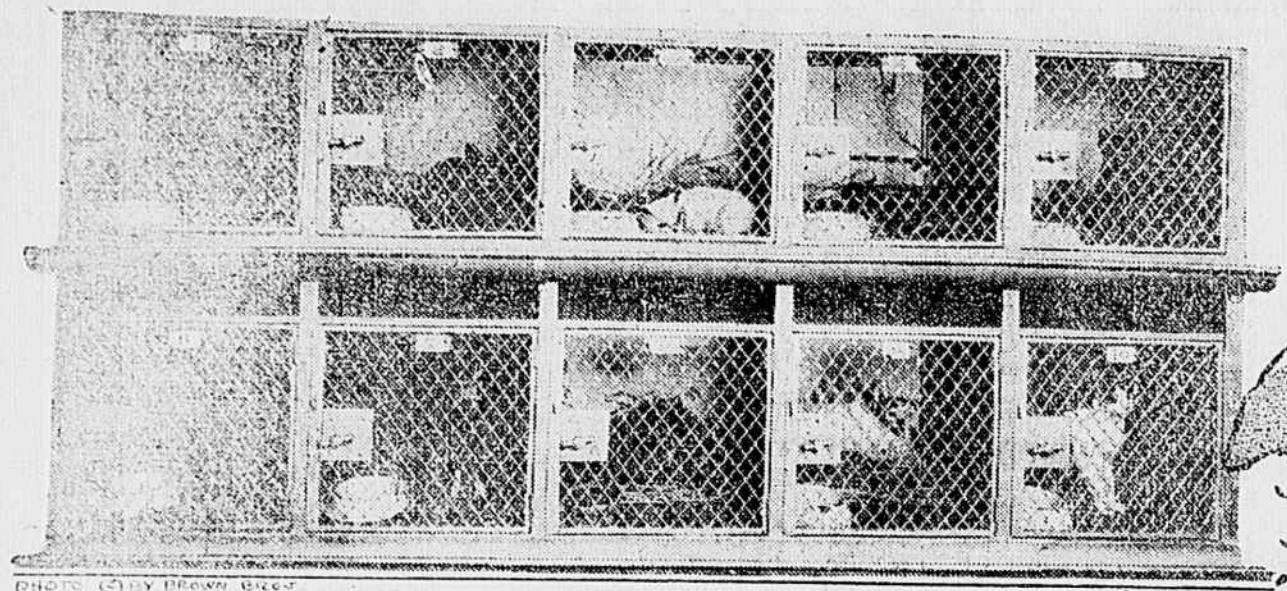


# Trying To Stamp Out Hydrophobia in New York



Cages of Cats That Have Bitten Someone Held Under Observation by the New York Board of Health

**P**RETTY little thirteen-year-old Grace Polhemus died in Brooklyn the other day in the agonies of hydrophobia, from the bite of a mad cat.

A few days later a mad dog bit seven people near the Barclay street ferry in lower New York.

At the present moment there are more than sixty victims of mad dogs under treatment by the New York Board of Health. In spite of the selfish opposition of the owners of dogs the Board of Health is determined to try to stamp out hydrophobia.

It is commonly supposed that the danger from hydrophobia comes from the roving, ownerless, stray dogs of the city. This is not the real truth. Most of the victims of hydrophobia are bitten by house dogs or cats that are household pets.

Of fifty-five hydrophobia patients under treatment in the city hospitals recently forty-three of them were bitten by house dogs or cats, only twelve by stray animals. In one case a mad house dog bit eight persons in one household. In another a mad house cat bit seven persons on one block. In no case did a stray dog bite more than two persons.

If every dog owner would keep his dog muzzled, and the Health Department were successful in capturing every stray dog, hydrophobia could be wiped out absolutely in a comparatively short time, as it was in England as a result of regulations similar to those recently put into force by the New York Health Department.

This is so because of the peculiar nature of the disease, it can be communicated only by actual injection of the micro-organism responsible for it. Such injection takes place when a rabid dog breaks the skin of its victim with its teeth, because the dog's saliva carries the micro-organism of rabies.

If, then, every dog in New York now afflicted with hydrophobia were put under control so as to prevent their wounding healthy dogs, the afflicted dogs would rapidly die from the effects of the disease and hydrophobia would be a thing of memory. To accomplish this result, however, it is necessary to put all dogs under control temporarily, because there is no way of telling whether or not a particular dog has been exposed to the disease. In other words, it takes time for the disease to develop after an animal has been scratched or bitten by a rabid animal. The period which elapses between the bite and the development of the disease is called the "incubation" period, during that period the animal in question shows no signs of its condition. It may take a month, or three months, or even a year, before the disease develops. There was a case of a child bitten by a mad dog where the child did not develop for fifteen months, during the whole of which period the child was under observation, thus removing the possibility of a second infection. In the case of the Brooklyn girl who died a week or two ago, hydrophobia did not develop until thirteen months after the child was bitten.

To stamp out hydrophobia once and for all, then, it is necessary to capture every stray dog and cat and muzzle every owned dog. In that way, every animal actually afflicted with the disease would rapidly succumb to it, and every animal which had been merely exposed to it would, in the course of time, develop it and similarly succumb to it without any of them having an opportunity to transmit it to other animals.

As was pointed out in this newspaper recently by Dr. S. S. Goldwater, Commissioner of Health and president of the Board of Health, there has not been a single case of hydrophobia in dogs or human beings in England since 1902, because of the rigid enforcement of the muzzling law in that country.

Then, again, there is a more or less general belief that the menace of hydrophobia has been exaggerated. There is an idea that the Pasteur treatment is infallible. That is a great mistake. The effectiveness of the Pasteur treatment was thus explained by Dr. Frank S. Fielder, as-

sistant director of the Research Laboratories of the New York Health Department:

"The Pasteur treatment consists of a series of more or less painful injections lasting about three weeks. Where the treatment is completed without the disease developing, it is successful in about 90 per cent of the cases, but where the disease develops before the treatment is completed, the treatment is never successful. In other words, once the disease develops there is no way now known to science by which it can be cured.

"In 1913, for instance, we administered the treatment in 373 cases in which the animal inflicting the wound was known to have been suffering from rabies. In two of those cases the disease developed before or shortly after the treatment was completed, and in a third case, the case of the Brooklyn girl who died a week or two ago, it didn't develop until a year after the treatment was completed. In all three cases the patient suc-

cumbed. In the remaining 370 cases the patients survived."

In a large number of cases, however, the Pasteur treatment is not administered at all, or, if started, is not completed. This often occurs where the victim is bitten by his own dog. In such cases the dog owner is unwilling to believe that his pet is rabid and refuses to take the Pasteur treatment as a precautionary measure. In other cases, after yielding to the advice of the family physician and taking one or two Pasteur injections, the patient becomes indifferent to his danger and decides to "take a chance." The toll of death is very large where the Pasteur treatment is not taken, although, of course, some individuals possess such excellent resisting power that the disease never develops, despite the fact that no precautions are taken against it.

This is illustrated in the case of the Brooklyn child who succumbed a week or two ago. The cat which bit her also bit two others, a boy and a man. Neither underwent the Pasteur treatment and neither developed the disease. The girl took the treatment at the earliest possible moment, and still developed the disease.

It is apparent, therefore, that dog owners are not justified in ignoring the regulations laid down by the Health Department simply because the Pasteur treatment may be relied upon to arrest the development of the disease in a great number of cases. Despite all that medical science can do hydrophobia will still exact a heavy toll among those who contract it. The only effective way to protect the community against the dread disease is to prevent its transmission, and that can be done only by seizing all stray dogs and muzzling those which are owned.

The muzzling law is not only a protection to the community at large and to the dog owner in particular. It is also a protection to dogs. Any true dog lover ought to realize the fact that it is only by muzzling all dogs that his own dog may be safeguarded. In England, where the enforcement of dog-muzzling laws and other protective measures has absolutely stamped out rabies, dogs are safe from the disease. In this country, especially in New York City and its environs, where dog owners have long resented any attempt upon the part of the authorities to regulate the ownership of dogs and other animals, no dog or cat is safe.

Although dog-owners, as a rule, show so little regard for the safety of the community, the authorities point out that those most likely to suffer from this indifference are the dog-owners themselves. This is so because of several widespread fallacies regarding hydrophobia or rabies as a result of which dog owners are sometimes bitten by their rabid pets before they

realize the real nature of the animal's complaint.

"There is a common idea," declared Dr. Fielder, "that a mad dog shows an intense fear of water. As long, therefore, as a pet dog shows no aversion to his drink, his owner is very apt to regard any indisposition he may exhibit as of minor consequence. As a matter of fact, however, mad dogs are able to eat and drink and show no fear of food or water until paralysis of the throat actually sets in, which may not occur until late in the course of the disease.

"Equally general is the erroneous idea that a mad dog is necessarily violent. The fact is that there are two forms of the disease: the quiet or dumb form, and the active or violent form. In the first the dog is quiet and drowsy and shows little or no tendency to bite or run away. The lower jaw is slightly drooped

## Unpleasant Facts Showing That It Is the Pet Dog and the Household Cat and Not the Ownerless Stray Mongrels That Are the Chief Cause of Hydrophobia

and, in this form of the disease, although the animal laps liquids he is unable to swallow them. Weakness of the hind legs sets in and the animal dies within a few days. In the second form, the animal is restless, sometimes irritable and sometimes unusually affectionate at the onset. Frequently the dog runs away from home.

"It should be remembered that secretions from the mouth of a rabid dog are poisonous whether he shows any tendency to bite or not, and if they come in contact with a sore or an open wound on the person of a healthy animal or human being they transmit the disease.

"The only safe rule to follow in handling a sick dog is to wear heavy gloves and to avoid secretions from the mouth. Until it is absolutely certain that your sick dog has not got hydrophobia, the only safe thing to do is to assume that he has and

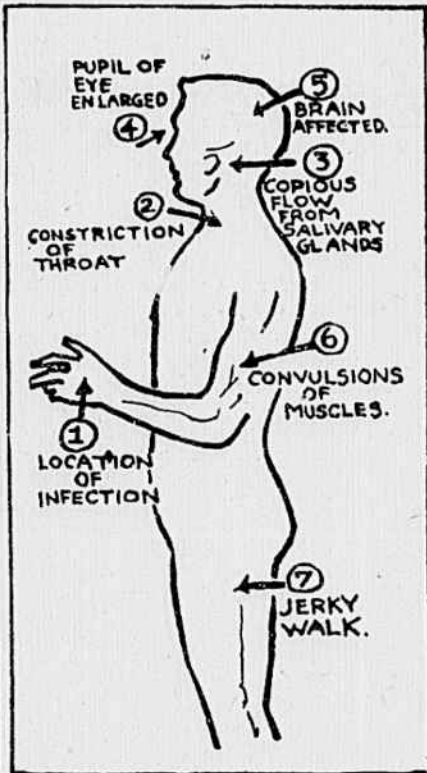
act accordingly. Keep the dog under observation and out of the way of human beings and other animals for a week. If he has the disease, he will succumb to it in that time."

Dog owners who are careless of their own safety have no right to jeopardize the safety of others and a rigorous enforcement of the dog-muzzling ordinance is the only thing that will adequately protect the community.

In view of these facts the Board of Health takes the very reasonable grounds that every citizen should make it his duty to act as an informer if his dog-keeping neighbor fails to comply with the Health Department regulations. No child or adult in the city is safe from hydrophobia, the most horrible of all diseases, while obstinate dog owners are permitted to defy the Health Department in its valuable crusade. It is to the interest as well as the duty of every individual citizen to cooperate in every way possible with the Health Department in this splendid work.



Inoculation of Hydrophobia Patients at the New York Pasteur Institute.



How Hydrophobia Shows Its Effect in Various Parts of the Body.



Little Thirteen-Year-Old Grace Polhemus Who Died in the Frightful Agony of Hydrophobia from a Cat's Bite.

## What the Stars Promise for January

**T**HE full Moon on the 1st, with Mercury and Sun rising in Capricorn, brings the opposition from the seventh house, with Moon therein conjoined with Mars in affliction with Mercury and the solar orb.

This betokens something in the nature of a crisis with another government, and such will not relate to the Mexican problem—that country's internal affairs being made better through the good offices of Jupiter and Venus during the Winter quarter. But there will be strained relations—albeit temporary—as the outgrowth of some foreign treaty or territorial rights, with a sovereign Power disposed to impugn the integrity of our claims to New World supremacy, partly the fault of one of the South American republics. Our diplomacy will require a delicate finesse if we are to maintain our attitude of neutrality. Much acrimony will be evinced in legislative debates in the Eastern and Middle Commonwealths, following the 15th.

A feeling of unrest permeates the public mind, labor troubles will brew, with some probable clashes between master and man; the community and the ruling powers are not in harmony in the first half of the month. The money interests are benefitted through the position of Jupiter, and the tickers will renew their belated activity as regards the stock market; this is not so clearly in evidence after the 19th, when speculative ventures will suffer through some very patent failures, including not a few startling failures.

Saturn affects the public health in the Eastern and Middle States, with danger of an influenza epidemic, and pulmonary affection.

This same position is likewise premonitory of a naval disaster, and death will claim its toll from the line.

There will be marked depreciation in real estate values in the latter half of the month, and disasters to public buildings may be expected, especially along eastern longitudes; Saturn sits threateningly in that angle of the mundane chart, and will entail loss of life, centralizing near the 20th.

Our western domain comes under a beneficent reign, with Venus and Jupiter in pleasant control of municipal and State matters; this particularly along the coast States, extending into the territory further south. But disasters to theatres may be looked for west of the 90th meridian.

The month opens unseasonably warm, with much dampness, and winds chiefly from the south. These will be accelerated around the 5th, with Sun conjunction Mercury, followed on 6-8th by a lowered temperature, with the lunar equinox coincident with the last quarter. A clearer atmosphere between the 9th and 12th; the 14th foggy, with some precipitation. The last half of the month turns to excessive cold, with a storm in the nadir at the new Moon on the 15th. Some devastating storms will occur around the 20th, with gales sweeping across the northern sections, and much rain in the South. A minor blizzard is due in the closing days of the month and opening of February.

Specific incidents occur on or near the following dates:

January 1-3—Disquieting news from abroad relative to one of our ships, involving

unpleasant naval controversy; open enmity by a foreign Power.

January 5.—Notable gatherings of a discursive nature; a commercial treaty effected. An important appointment announced from Albany. The demise of a high naval officer.

January 11.—Labor demonstrations and anarchistic utterances, requiring police interference. The State Department much concerned over a pending transaction. Secretary Bryan has Saturn stationary squaring will be rumors of his retirement from the Cabinet councils.

January 14.—A notable divorce case aired in the public prints. A well-known financier in disgrace. Seismic disturbances reported at this time.

January 19-20.—Excitement on Wall street, involving brokerage failures. A legislative measure evokes criticism. A theatre or hotel calamity.

January 26.—Legislation beneficial to railroads and the postal service enacted. Prominent engagements announced at this time, one in high official circles.

January 28-29.—Further Wall street disturbances, with a suicide among the speculative fraternity.

January 30.—Some creditable prisons reforms due at the close of the month.

People born around the 17-19th of March or June, or 19-21st of September or December of any year, will have Saturn afflicting their natal Sun, and will need look well to business and health; affected by dampness, colds and rheumatic complaints, especially in the chest, knees and lower limbs; sim-

ilarly if born in the Winter of 1849, Summer of 1855, Spring of 1856, early Fall of 1862, first half of 1870, Spring and Fall of 1878, early Summer of 1885, Winter and Summer of 1892 or Summer of 1900.

Those born in the third week of February, April, June, October or December of any year; or in May-June, 1847, Summers of 1849 and 1851, Fall of 1853, Spring and Fall of 1855, Spring of 1856, May-June, 1860, Summer and Fall of 1862, in 1864, Spring and Summer of 1865, Spring and Fall of 1867, Fall of 1870, Spring and Summer of 1875, in 1877, Summer of 1882, Winter and Spring of 1883, Summer of 1887, in 1890 and 1894, will be under the favorable auspices of Jupiter this month and may push all affairs with confidence and with preferential expectancy.

Those whose anniversaries occur early in February, May, August or November will have to reckon with the capricious Uranus, particularly females; erratic conditions in the coming year of life.

Law will beset those born on January 1st; the next six days of the month afford pleasant prospects ahead, new business enterprise. The 8th to 14th are uncertain anniversaries, with ill health or bereavement if born on the 7-8th. The 16th to 18th shows a pleasantly prospective period, with the romantic surrounding the 16th natives, and good for artists and musicians. Business reactions and disgrace if born on the 18th; the remaining days, excepting the 26th, foreshadow difficulties, particularly if near the close of the month.